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A SHORT PICTURE OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI AFTER THE ATOM BLAST. LET IT NOT FAIL TO TEACH A MORAL LESSON TO POWERS.

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(It was on August 6, 1945, the first Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and three days later another fell on Nagasaki)

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Hiroshima and Nagasaki may have been razed to the ground by the two Atom bombs dropped on them, but Japan still lives. She lives greater than ever before. The grit and determination of the great people of that country has done this.

In great War II, until August 1945, the attacks delivered from the air by the Allied and associated powers on enemy countries had been of increasing intensity, but the effects from blast of fire were such that the damage from a known weight of attack could be predicted with some degree of accuracy from past experience. In the early days of August, the United States Air Force attacked Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a new weapon. One atomic bomb was dropped over each city. The destructive effects in each case were on a scale which far exceeded that of previous air raids. New phenomena accompanied this form of attack and the whole problem of counter measures and civil defence generally required reconsideration.

On August 6th, 1945 shortly after 8 a.m. an American Super-Fortress flying at 30,000 feet dropped a single atomic bomb over the Japanese, mercantile city of Hiroshima. The bomb exploded over the city centre. Three days later, on August 9th, just after 11 a.m. a Super Fortress flying at the same height, which had found its primary target dropped a second atomic bomb over the industrial city of Nagasaki. This bomb exploded over the city's factory area. In Hiroshima more than four square miles of the city were destroyed and 80,000 people were killed. In the smaller city of Nagasaki about one and half sqaare miles were destroyed and nearly 40,000 people were killed. The causes of destruction and of death differed in many points from those which had acted in the conventional raids of the past. It was clear that bombing had changed its character and its scale beyond recognition.

HIROSHIMA.

Hiroshima had been virtually undamaged by air attack before the atomic bomb fell. This bomb exploded near the city centre and thence spread its destruction with great uniformity. Directly or indirectly it initiated innumerable fires among the wooden houses and workshops which burned unchecked for days and gutted the old town and the industrial zone enclosing it. The more modern industrial buildings on the edge of the town, however, at one and half a miles or more from the centre escaped with only minor damages.

Nagasaki shared the same fate but slightly less devastating. Both in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki the scale of disaster brought city life and industry virtually to a standstill. Even the most destructive convetional attacks, the incendiary raids on

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Hamburg in the summer of 1943 and on Tokyo in the spring of 1945 had no comparable effect in paralysing communication organisation. In this case, there was panic flight of the people, in which officials and civil defence personnel personnel joined, abandoning even the rescue service.

ACTION OF THE ATOM BOMB.

It was officially announced in Washington that the explosive energy of one Bomb was equivalent to that of twenty thousand (20,000) tons of T.N.T.

Whereas the stored energy in an explosion such as T.N.T. is chemical, the energy in created in atomic fission is radiated. Heat radiated by the atomic bomb and penetrating short wave radiations are intense enough to kill thousands of people. By contrast conventional explositions release no penetrating radiation and the heat released by them is dangerous only at very short distances.

Atomic heat burnt exposed skil of people so severely that the skin was immediately charred dark brown of black and these people died within minutes or almost hours. This happened to people within about 1500 years severely and mildly to those say some two and half a miles away. Crops and vegetation were completely burnt within 1,000 years of the centre of explosion.

DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS.

Reinforced concrete buildings of very heavy construction in Hiroshima even within 200 years remained structurally un-damaged. Flat roof slabs 6" to 7" were often dished but a roof thickness of 10" appeared to be sufficient to resist permanent deflection. Less massive buildings with their interior with special side pressure resisting features remained structurally undamaged although only 500 years away.

RADIO ACTIVE EFFECTS.

The most important radio-active action at Hiroshima and Nagasaki appeared to have been that from penetrating radiation at present called 'Gamma rays'.

The Gamma rays penetrated through the skin without affecting it. Their harmful effect was delayed, the characteristic symptoms of which were; Nausen vomitting, fever, bloddy diarrhoea, loss of appetite and losing hair, and them death within a week of the initial exposure. It is thought that 'gamma rays' ultimately killed everyone who was fully exposed to them upto a distance of half mile.

CASUALITIES.

Official figures for Hiroshima show some 78,150 dead. For comparison the number of these killed in air attacks during the years of World War II in London was 30,000 and those killed in the same period in Great Britain including London was 60,000.

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The most serious effect of the atomic bomb is NOT so much in the outright killing but in producing the delayed casualities. This problem of providing against and of treating 'gamma rays' casualities is very real and grave.

The fate of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should serve as an eye opener to those big powers who are engaged in the Atomic race today and it has a moral to teach them. Will they heed and work in a co-operative spirit to achieve world peace and to make this world a happy place for mankind by banning the manufacturing of 'Atom Bombs' and the likes?

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